

REMARKS

With regards to the drawings applicant has cancelled Figs. 4 and 5, deleted the reference language within the specification in regards to these figures and has cancelled Claims 19 and 20 which referred to the figures. A clean copy of the specification pages related thereto are enclosed herewith.

Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 12 to add the feature that a numeric counter continues to count coins from player to player until the dispensing unit dispenses a ticket. Okuniewicz in view of Quinn does not teach or make obvious this feature. Okuniewicz specifically teaches paying out a bonus to a player playing a gaming machine. The Examiner previously stated that Okuniewicz does not teach visually displaying to a player the number of coins needed to generate a ticket or number of coins inserted by the player. Okuniewicz specifically teaches a single player playing a machine and does not teach having a second player playing the same machine and then winning a bonus on that machine based on the number of coins placed in the machine by both players. Further, Quinn teaches a vending machine for dispensing a lottery ticket. The lottery ticket would be the equivalent of the original gaming award and not relate to a bonus being supplemental to the gaming award. Further, Quinn does not teach two separate persons placing coins in a unit so that a second person would have a ticket generated. There would be no reasoning for the first person to place coins in a machine and not receive a lottery ticket and a second person then to place coins in a machine to receive the first person's lottery ticket. For

these reasons, all of the independent and dependent claims of the above patent application should be allowable.

Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance.

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Figure 3 is an embodiment illustrating internally a gaming machine and a dispensing unit of the present invention.

~~Fig. 4 shows a bin for holding tickets.~~

~~Fig. 5 shows a computer which has the website of the present invention.~~

Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention relates to a gaming system which pays out a bonus to a player playing a gaming machine, the bonus being supplemental to the gaming award. The bonus can be a sweepstakes, lottery or raffle style ticket. In an embodiment, the dispensing unit delivers a slip of paper that is generated by the gaming system after a player has deposited a set number of coins.

In a preferred embodiment, the unit comprises a numeric counter that alerts the player as to the set number of coins placed into a gaming machine and how many more coins have to be inserted into the gaming machine before the next sweepstakes, lottery or raffle ticket will be generated. The number of coins shown on the numeric counter will continue from player to player until the system distributes a ticket. The system then resets the counter to zero. In an embodiment, the coin counter can reset to zero after a certain amount of time has lapsed between the introduction of coins to the gaming machine. In an embodiment, the amount of coins necessary to receive a ticket can be changed by a remote unit. For example, one unit can say a player needs \$20.00 worth of coins to receive a ticket. A few minutes later, from a wireless control, the unit can have an amount of \$15.00 worth of coins to receive a ticket.

is connected to software 40 contained in the dispensing unit 10. When the software 40 reads that a coin has been deposited in the gaming machine 30, by a pulse of the hardmeter 34, it instructs the counter 12 to either visually display the number of coins that have been deposited in the gaming machine 30 or through a speaker 16 tells a user how many coins have been placed into the gaming machine 30. The software 40 instructs the unit 10 to either visually through LCD display 14 or through speaker 16 tell the user how many more coins have to be deposited into the gaming machine 30 before a ticket is dispensed through card dispenser 18. Once a ticket has been dispensed through card dispenser 18, the software instructs the numeric counter 12 to reset to zero.

~~Fig. 4 shows the bin 50 for holding tickets 20.~~

~~Fig. 5 shows a computer system containing the website 60 for the present invention.~~

Figure 3 is an embodiment illustrating internally a gaming machine and a dispensing unit of the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention relates to a gaming system which pays out a bonus to a player playing a gaming machine, the bonus being supplemental to the gaming award. The bonus can be a sweepstakes, lottery or raffle style ticket. In an embodiment, the dispensing unit delivers a slip of paper that is generated by the gaming system after a player has deposited a set number of coins.

In a preferred embodiment, the unit comprises a numeric counter that alerts the player as to the set number of coins placed into a gaming machine and how many more coins have to be inserted into the gaming machine before the next sweepstakes, lottery or raffle ticket will be generated. The number of coins shown on the numeric counter will continue from player to player until the system distributes a ticket. The system then resets the counter to zero. In an embodiment, the coin counter can reset to zero after a certain amount of time has lapsed between the introduction of coins to the gaming machine. In an embodiment, the amount of coins necessary to receive a ticket can be changed by a remote unit. For example, one unit can say a player needs \$20.00 worth of coins to receive a ticket. A few minutes later, from a wireless control, the unit can have an amount of \$15.00 worth of coins to receive a ticket.

In one embodiment, at certain times a drawing is held to determine a winner. In an embodiment, the bonus prize can be generated from a percentage of the total coins placed into all the participating gaming machines.

The present invention is a progressive gaming platform that dispenses a tangible lottery or sweepstakes ticket. In one embodiment, the present invention provides the

ticket via a side-mounted box that is attached to a traditional slot machine cabinet. In another embodiment, the present invention provides the ticket via a box placed inside the gaming machine. In an embodiment, the present invention provides a secondary progressive jackpot ticket dispensed from a side mounted or internal box, once a fixed dollar or coin-in limit has been reached. In an embodiment, the progressive jackpot is deducted or tabulated as a fixed percentage or hold from the total dollars wagered specifically on machines that contain the dispensers. The present invention shows the coins that have been added to the machine and the number of coins needed to add to the machine before a bonus is distributed to the user.

The unit can show the number of coins necessary to receive a ticket either visually, or through an audio system that tells the user how many coins are needed to receive a ticket.

In an embodiment of the present invention the box can be an add-on to any existing slot machines and gaming devices including video poker machines, video bingo games and video keno games.

In an embodiment of the present invention the box is a self contained unit that does not affect the play or outcome of the slot machine or gaming device.

In an embodiment of the present invention the unit counts coin pulses off of the slot machines hard meter, and bonuses a player based on the number of coins or pulses played.

In an embodiment of the present invention the unit counts up or down. The unit counts various coin denominations, e.g., nickel, dime, quarter or dollar slots.

In an embodiment the present invention provides a counter which visually or by audio alerts the player as to how many coins have been played at a particular machine. The system does not count unplayed credits or dollar bills put into the bill validator, and allows the player to know when the next bonusing event will occur.

Tickets dispensed by the system of the present invention can take a number of forms. In an embodiment of the present invention the ticket is a raffle ticket where the player signs their name and address on it and drops it in a bin 50 for a daily or weekly drawing at the casino. In an embodiment of the present invention the ticket is a sweepstakes ticket where many numbers are drawn and multiple types of prizes are given. In an embodiment of the present invention, the lottery drawing is done on a web site, where the holder of the lottery ticket can also purchase discounted goods on the web site by using the lottery ticket.

The system of the present invention can also be progressively linked to offer large jackpots that can include other casino establishments. In an embodiment, the ticket dispensed is a debit card for use at the casino, i.e., restaurants or gift shops. The ticket can offer marketing on the back of it. This marketing can direct a player to other events at a casino or a web site.

In an embodiment of the present invention the ticket takes the form of a Bingo ticket, Keno ticket or Sweepstakes/Lottery ticket. The drawing can be a raffle type ticket where the ticket is picked from a barrel. The drawing can be in the form of a bingo game, keno game, or in the same style as a lottery drawing.

In an embodiment of the present invention the ticket is pre-printed and has the drawing numbers on it when dispensed. In an embodiment of the present invention the

tickets to be printed by the unit use a random number generator, and lottery style software system.

In an embodiment of the present invention the ticket takes the form of a poker card, entry into a horse racing event, or for play on sporting events.

Figure 1 is an embodiment illustrating a dispensing unit 10 of the present invention attached to a gaming machine 30. Figure 2 is an embodiment illustrating the dispensing unit 10 of the present invention. Dispensing unit 10 has a numeric counter 12 which shows how many coins or how much money has been placed into the gaming machine 30 through, for example, a coin slot 32. The user is told either by audio, such as with a speaker 16, or visually such as by an LCD display 14 how many coins or how much money is needed before a ticket 20 is provided by a dispensing mechanism 18.

In a further embodiment, the dispensing unit 10 can be placed inside gaming machine 30.

Fig. 2a shows a ticket 20 having a place for the name and address 22.

Figure 3 illustrates internally a gaming machine and a dispensing unit of the present invention. A user places a coin into a coin slot 32 of a gaming machine 30. The Hardmeter 34 monitors the coins played in gaming machine 30. The Hardmeter 34 is connected to software 40 contained in the dispensing unit 10. When the software 40 reads that a coin has been deposited in the gaming machine 30, by a pulse of the hardmeter 34, it instructs the counter 12 to either visually display the number of coins that have been deposited in the gaming machine 30 or through a speaker 16 tells a user how many coins have been placed into the gaming machine 30. The software 40 instructs the unit 10 to either visually through LCD display 14 or through speaker 16 tell the user

how many more coins have to be deposited into the gaming machine 30 before a ticket is dispensed through card dispenser 18. Once a ticket has been dispensed through card dispenser 18, the software instructs the numeric counter 12 to reset to zero.